

A NEW THREE-AWN GRASS FROM TRANS-PECOS, TEXAS

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ARISTIDA brownii Warnock, sp. nov.

Gramina perennia caespitosa 60–100 cm alta fere glabra; foliosa in parte tertia basali; folia omnio valde involuta 14–25 cm longa arcuata; inflorescentiae spiciformes terminales ca 20 cm longae ramulis adpressis; spiculae (aristis exclusa) 8–11 mm longae; fluma infera arista brevi inclusa ca 8 mm longa; gluma supera 8–10 mm longa exaristata; lemma callo brevi, corpore 8–10 mm longo, columella ca 2 mm longa debile torta, arista centrali ca 8–10 mm longa, aristis 2 lateralibus ca 1–2 mm longis.

Tufted perennial; stems erect to ascending, 60–100 cm tall mostly appearing glabrous, old culms have a tendency to shred; inflorescence spicate panicle ca 20 cm long, appressed branches; peduncle long exserted ca 15–45 cm; leaves more abundant on lower one-third of plant; blades micro-scabrous on upper surface ridges, tightly involute and curving ca 14–25 cm long, ca 1.5 mm broad at base, pilose to glabrous near throat; ligule short hairs ca 0.4 mm long; collar glabrous; sheaths short ciliate on margins at throat, micro-scabrous on ridges; spikelets 1–10 per appressed branches, 8–11 mm long, excluding once geniculate awn; first glume ca 8 mm long including short awn; second glume 10–11 mm long, awnless; lemma body glabrous ca 10–11 mm long to beak or column which is slightly twisted, ca 2 mm long two lateral awns ca 1–2 mm long but vary somewhat in length; central awn ca 8–10 mm long, micro-scabrous; callus short pubescent.

TYPE COLLECTION: TEXAS. Brewster Co.: widespread perennial on limestone hills of Del Norte Mountains, elevation 4600 feet or more, 27 Jun 1981, *Warnock 141* (HOLOTYPE: Lajitas Museum; ISOTYPES: TEX, SMU).

This three-awn grass is known only from Del Norte Mountains; of minor importance for forage except prior to anthesis. Named for Joseph R. Brown who practices good conservation on his Altuda Mountain ranch. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Marshall Johnston, U.T. Austin for translating my English description of this taxon. Dr. Johnston states that he has seen several species of *Aristida* in Mexico that show considerable variation in length of the lateral awns. The habitat and general appearance of this grass closely resembles *Aristida Wrightii* which is frequent and in close association with this taxon.

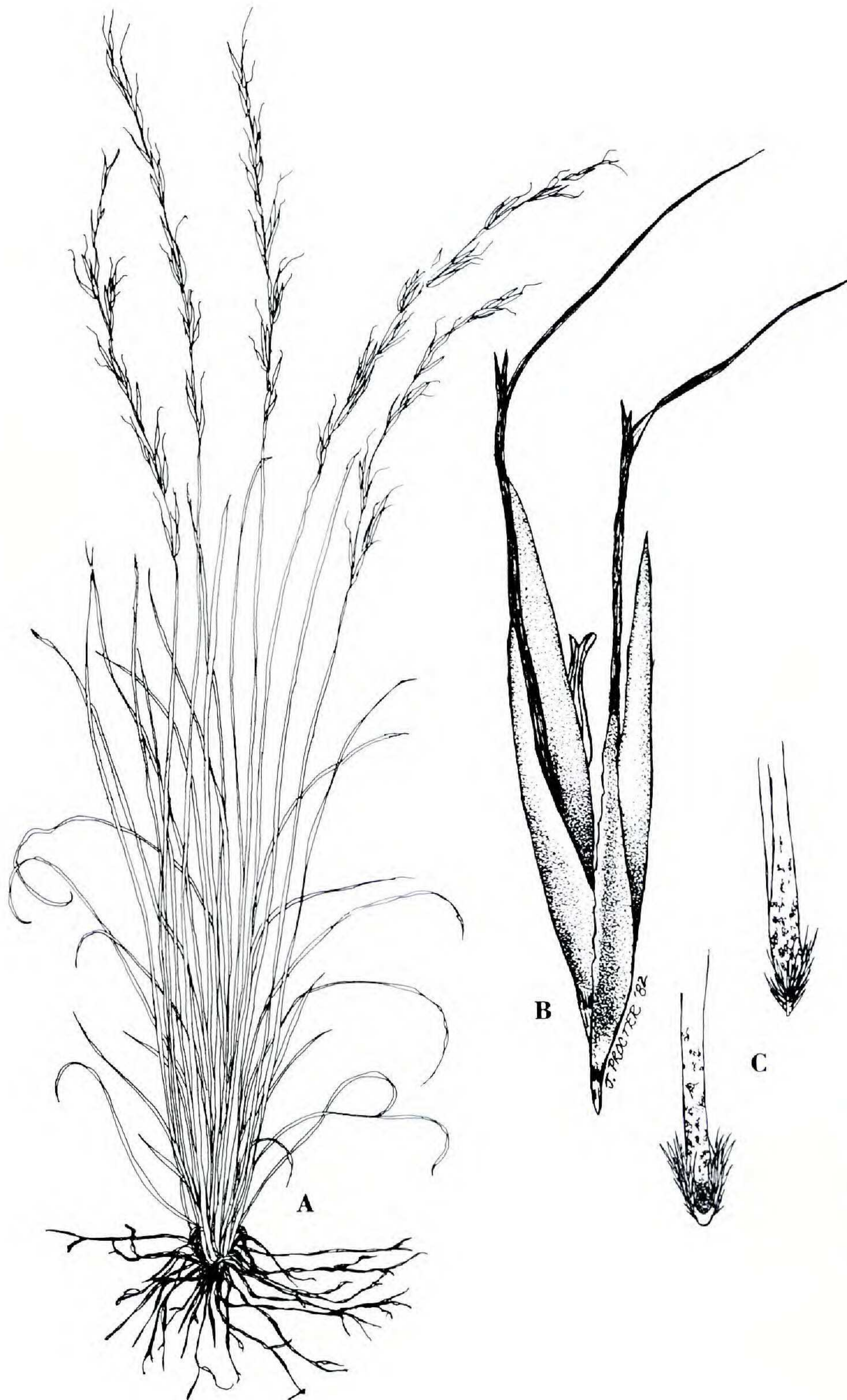


Figure 1. *Aristida Brownii*. A. Habit, X 1/2; B. Spikelets, X 13; C. Callus, upper and lower surface X 7.